

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4632

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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By Ms. Khan of Newton, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on House, No. 129, a Bill regarding children and families requiring assistance (House, No. 4632). April 27, 2010.

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An Act regarding children and families requiring assistance.

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

NAME:

Kay Khan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

11th Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Ten

An Act regarding children and families requiring assistance.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, are hereby amended in  
2 chapter 69 by adding after 1N the following:-

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4       Section 1O. Truancy prevention program

5       The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a standard truancy prevention  
6 program for all districts that involves the school, child, and family. Individual school districts shall  
7 request changes to this program for their district by submitting requests in writing to the department.

8  
9       Before a school administrator refers a child for habitually truant behavior or expels a child for failure to  
10 comply with the lawful and reasonable rules of the school, he or she must first show that the school, child,  
11 and family have completed a department of education certified truancy program.

12  
13       The department shall evaluate the effectiveness of the program by school district and individual school  
14 and include the student's age, gender, and race. The results of that evaluation and recommendations for  
15 legislation, if any, shall be reported annually.

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17       SECTION 2. Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby  
18 amended in lines 52-54 of section 21 by deleting the definition for "Parent" in its entirety and inserting in  
19 place thereof the following:-

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21       "Parent(s)", a mother, father, legal guardian, or other person(s) legally responsible for a child's care.

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23       And, is further amended in section 39E by inserting in line 18 after the word "school", the following:-

24  
25       But before such a petition is filed, it must first be shown that the school, child, and family have completed  
26 a department of elementary and secondary education certified truancy program.

27  
28       SECTION 3. The secretary of the executive office of health and human services shall annually, on  
29 February 1, file a report on how the unique needs of girls who run away from their parents and legal  
30 guardians are being addressed.